

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A shock absorber comprising:
 - a pressure tube forming a working chamber;
 - a piston slidably disposed within said working chamber, said piston body dividing said working chamber into an upper working chamber and a lower working chamber;
 - a piston rod attached to said piston body, said piston rod extending through one end of said pressure tube;
 - a reservoir tube surrounding said pressure tube to form a reservoir chamber between said reservoir tube and said pressure tube;
 - a base valve assembly disposed between said working chamber and said reservoir chamber; and
 - a baffle disposed within said reservoir chamber, said baffle defining a non-linear flow channel between a first portion of said reservoir chamber and second portion of said reservoir chamber, said non-linear flow channel being the only flow channel between said first and second portions of said reservoir chamber.
2. The shock absorber according to Claim 1 wherein said first portion of said non-linear flow channel is adjacent said base valve assembly.

3. The shock absorber according to Claim 1 wherein said baffle comprises a baffle spring.

4. The shock absorber according to Claim 3 wherein said baffle spring engages both said pressure tube and said reservoir tube.

5. The shock absorber according to Claim 1 wherein said baffle has a T-shaped cross section.

6. The shock absorber according to Claim 5 wherein said T-shaped cross section includes a base section engaging said pressure tube and an upright section engaging said reservoir tube.

7. The shock absorber according to Claim 5 wherein said baffle comprises an elastomeric material.

8. The shock absorber according to Claim 1 wherein said baffle includes a base section and an upright section.

9. The shock absorber according to Claim 8 wherein said baffle includes a wire disposed within said base section.

10. The shock absorber according to Claim 8 wherein said base section engages said pressure tube and said upright section engages said reservoir tube.

11. The shock absorber according to Claim 8 wherein said baffle comprises an elastomeric material.

12. The shock absorber according to Claim 1 wherein said baffle engages both said pressure tube and said reservoir tube.

13. The shock absorber according to Claim 1 wherein said baffle comprises an elastomeric material.

14. The shock absorber according to Claim 1 wherein said non-linear flow path is a helical flow path.

15. The shock absorber according to Claim 14 wherein said baffle has a T-shaped cross section.

16. The shock absorber according to Claim 15 wherein said T-shaped cross section includes a base section engaging said pressure tube and an upright section engaging said reservoir tube.

17. The shock absorber according to Claim 14 wherein said baffle includes a base section and an upright section.

18. The shock absorber according to Claim 17 wherein said baffle includes a wire disposed within said base section.

19. The shock absorber according to Claim 17 wherein said base section engages said pressure tube and said upright section engages said reservoir tube.